

REMARKS

Claims 5, 17 and 20 are canceled without prejudice, and therefore claims 1 to 4, 6 to 16, 18 and 19 are pending in the present application.

In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is noted that a Response is also being filed in co-pending U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 11/698,650 (attorney docket 10191/3107A), which is a continuation application of the present case.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claim 20. While the rejections may not be agreed with, to facilitate matters, claim 1 has been rewritten so that it reflects the subject matter of allowed claim 20, which has been canceled without prejudice, since its features have been included in claim 1. Claims 5 and 17 are canceled without prejudice since their features are reflected in the features of canceled and allowed claim 20 which have been included in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1, as presented, is allowable for the same reasons as canceled claim 20, as are dependent claims 2 to 4, 6 to 16, 18 and 19.

Claims 1 to 19 were rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as to enablement.

While the rejections may not be agreed with – especially in view of the law as to enablement and since claim 1 is enabled as presented, to facilitate matters, claim 1 has been rewritten so that it reflects the subject matter of allowed claim 20, which has been canceled without prejudice, since its features have been included in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable for the same reasons as canceled claim 20, as are dependent claims 2 to 4, 6 to 16, 18 and 19.

In sum, claims 1 and 2 to 4, 6 to 16, 18 and 19 are allowable.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections (and any objections) be withdrawn. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

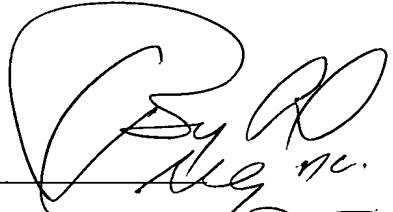
Respectfully submitted,

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